Improving use of herbal medicines

† 3494. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether medical treatment is done in the country by using medicines based on herbs;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that there is an ample scope for improvement in this system of medicine;

(c) if so, whether Government have assessed the scope of improvement in this regard; and

(d) if so, the scope of improvement in the prevailing situation assessed to be brought about?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERM A]: (a) Medicinal Plants are largely used for the manufacture of Ayurvedic, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathic drugs.

(b) Yes, sir.

(c) and (d) To augment the availability of medicinal plants, the scheme for development of medicinal plants garden and agro-techniques are under implementation. The Ministry of Environment and Forests are implementing scheme for conservation of medicinal plants. In order to coordinate activities relating to Conservation, Cultivation, Marketing etc., of medicinal plants, a Medicinal Plants Board is proposed to be set up.

In order to develop and propagate ISM and H, this department has taken steps to strengthen educational institutions, standardization of drugs, quality control, research, availability of raw material and propagation through Information Education and Communication (IEC).

Contagious diseases in Assam

3495. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the health hazards to the tea gardens' population and areas of Assam posed by contagious diseases like Malaria,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.